



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

DCs Living Archive – Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 161st Year!

Welcoming Young & Old Alike to Join in Remembering the Past and Working for an Even Better Future

June 2026 / Bulletin 193

Join us for the next AOI of DC Luncheon Event!

**Thursday,
June 18, 2026**

*A Conversation with
Bluegrass
Hall of Famer
Tom Gray*

*with
WRC Reporter
Mark Seagraves*

**11:30am
Lunch & Program**

Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW
(\$12 validated parking across from club at 11 Dupont Circle)

Email RSVP to ricmarino@msn.com with your name, names of any guests, and choice of salmon, flank steak, or vegetarian meal. The 3-course lunch is \$40.00 per person.

Skip the Line!

In addition to paying by cash, check or card at the door, you can now pay in advance by Zelle using aoiofdc@gmail.com. Please add "June Luncheon" in the comment line. AOI members can also RSVP and pay for themselves and their guests by credit card via the [Members Only](#) portal on our website, password: 1865.

From Our April & May Luncheons ...

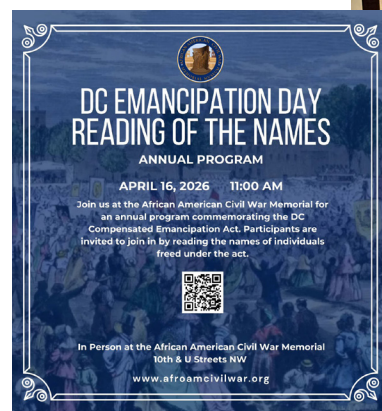
Our April meeting welcomed unusually warm weather along with four new members voted in by acclamation: **Michael Gorman**, **Gerry LaPorte**, **Karen Simpson**, and **Zilla Wesley**. Announcements featured updates on our [Project 160](#) preservation initiatives (including scanning of member artifacts at upcoming luncheons) and the DC Archives.

AOI member and author **Leo Warring**, our April speaker, treated us to the scandalous history of his father and uncles, Charles, Emmitt, and Leo Warring, of the infamous [Foggy Bottom Gang](#) gambling operation, as featured in his recent book of the same name. The entertaining (and largely victimless) exploits of the "gang" goes to show that scandal and sensational headlines in DC are by no means a new phenomenon!

In addition to some highlights of various AOI members in the news, our May meeting welcomed four new members: **Alison Fassl**, **Lamont Mitchell**, **Joel Schrag**, and **Kathleen Wilson**. Announcements noted the latest news on changes being proposed by the Administration to various landmarks around our city, including the White House ballroom, the proposed triumphal arch at the entry to Arlington Cemetery, the proposed painting of the Old Executive Office Building, the Kennedy Center, and the public golf course at East Potomac Park.

Our May speaker, author and journalist **Rebecca Boggs Roberts**, gave us a first-hand account of three generations of her family's significant women (including herself).

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*Above left: Our April meeting, landing on DC Emancipation Day, April 16th, featured a primer on the act freeing enslaved people in DC in 1862, as well as the related (but distinct) Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and Juneteenth (June 19th, 1865), when the last enslaved persons in the former Confederacy were finally freed; Above right: Member and April speaker **Leo Warring** chats with member **Martha Jewett**.*



2026 Board of Directors

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The Board of Directors meets at the Women's National Democratic Club at 10 a.m. on the Tuesday of the week prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting. Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Website: www.aoidc.org

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From Our April and May Luncheons, contd. from page 1

Starting with her grandmother, US Representative (and later Ambassador) Lindy Boggs, who stepped into the Louisiana House seat of her lost husband, Hale Boggs, followed by the career of her mother, journalist and PBS "Founding Mother" Cokie Roberts, Ms. Roberts painted a vivid portrait of nearly six decades of Washington society, verve, and influence.



Above: Our featured May luncheon speaker, **Rebecka Roberts** (center) with her grandmother Rep. Lindy Boggs of Louisiana (left) and mother, ABC & NPR journalist Cokie Roberts (right). Left: Sgt. Major **Christian Abraham Fleetwood**, Medal of Honor recipient and focus of our May trivia.

View the videos of the full April and May luncheon meetings on the AOI YouTube channel or on our website at www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-recordings.html. Podcasts of

AOI lunch presentations are also available on [SoundCloud](https://www.soundcloud.com/aoidc) (no memberships necessary – just click any 'X' at the SoundCloud link, and you're good to go).

In Memoriam ...

It with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of longtime AOI member and past board member **Carl Cole**. A proud multigenerational Washingtonian, Carl was born at Freedmans Hospital and raised in Southwest DC, the demolition of which he witnessed in his childhood and shaped his lifelong advocacy for Washington's waterfront communities and historic preservation. He became a respected civic leader, serving as co-chair of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities Board, a board member of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, and a longtime member and board member of the Capital Yacht Club, where his love for Washington's maritime community flourished.

Above all, Carl was a devoted family man whose greatest joy came from spending time with his wife, Rise, and his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, many of whom have become family to AOI over the years. Carl's legacy of service, mentorship, compassion, and love will continue to live on through the many lives he inspired throughout Washington, DC.



Other News ...

DC elections now use **Ranked-Choice Voting** for both the upcoming primary (June 16th) and for local races in the general election. Under Ranked-Choice Voting, voters rank their preferences from first to last (one in each column), and a candidate needs to achieve a majority vote to win. In order to achieve that, multiple rounds of vote counting occur, with the candidate receiving the least votes in each round being dropped. If a voter ranked that dropped candidate #1, their #2 choice is then tallied in the next round of counting. This continues until one candidate achieves a majority vote. If you want more information on how Ranked-Choice Voting works, and the correct way to fill out your ballot to make sure all your choices are counted properly, check out one of the many on-line primers, such as: 51st.news/dc-ranked-choice-vote-2026-training, www.acludc.org/ranked-choice-voting-in-dc, or www.hillrag.com/2026/04/24/the-abcs-of-ranked-choice-voting-2.

Ranked-Choice Voting

How to rank your top 5 candidates

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
FINE (RANK 5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
GREAT (RANK 2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
VERY GOOD (RANK 3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FAVORITE (RANK 1)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GOOD (RANK 4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Looking for something to do to celebrate the first official day of summer? Try out this year's [Smithsonian Solstice!](#) On Friday, June 19th, and Saturday, June 20th, all Smithsonian museums on the National Mall will be staying open late until 11:00 pm, as well as hosting other special programs and performances throughout the weekend. Smithsonian locations off the Mall, such as the Anacostia Museum, the National Zoo, and the Reynolds Center at Gallery Place, will also have special Solstice programming.



Of course, the city's main event this summer will be the celebration of our nation's **Semi-Quincentennial**, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (on display, BTW, at the National Archives' Charters of Freedom Rotunda, along with a special exhibit, *Free and Independent: A Celebration of the Declaration*, in the Archives' Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery). Although this year's celebration is bringing visitors to our city from all over



The Capitol Hill Community July 4th Parade famously starts with the USMC Drum & Bugle Corp and wraps up with the traditional cavalcade of DC sanitation trucks – with just about everything else imaginable in between.

the country, it is also an opportunity for DC to showcase and celebrate our own local July 4th traditions and special festivities, including unique events such as the augmented-reality *51 Steps to Freedom* trail; *250 Years of Beers* at Dacha Beer Garden, a tour of 50 state beers chronologically throughout the year; *District Vibes/American Pride: How DC Changed American Culture*, at the MLK, Jr. Library; *EAT250*, celebrating 250 years of the flavors of the DC region; and, of course, our two great neighborhood 4th of July Parades, on Capitol Hill and Palisades. Check out the [DC250](#) website for more information on these and other DC events marking our nation's milestone anniversary.



Sparked by his interest in the segregated story of the Reno neighborhood, local architect and historian **Neil Flanagan** is currently researching and documenting the influences of the major players in how DC became “like that,” from Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr, Francis Newlands, Frederick Delano, and many others, and how they imposed their ideas of how cities and suburbs should look and feel, deeply based on white exclusivity. As part of that effort, he has launched a biweekly newsletter, [The Birth of a Capital](#), that will take us along on his journey – and will likely become “required reading” for anyone wanting a deep dive into local DC history.



As originally noted in our Spring 2024 Newsletter, AOI was in the forefront of efforts to hold the Army Corp of Engineers' feet to the fire in their restoration of the Washington Aqueduct's Castle Gatehouse. The finished result, looking as good as new, debuted this spring – job well done!

Address Correction Requested

**The Association of Oldest Inhabitants
of the District of Columbia**

c/o 8900 Ellsworth Court
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Your Calendar...

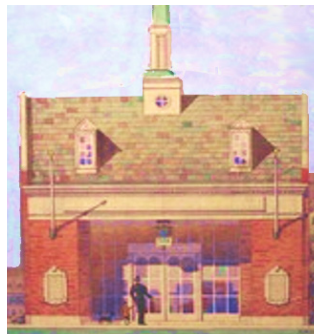
Upcoming AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Thurs. June 18 – *A Conversation with Bluegrass Hall of Famer Tom Gray*, with WRC reporter Mark Seagraves
- Thurs. Sept. 17 – *The Golden Era at The Washington Post*, with former Post columnist Bob Levey
- Thurs. Oct. 15 – *Washington Legacy Family: The Grahams*, with Donald Graham
- Thurs. Nov. 19 – *Preserving Washington's Federal Buildings*, a Panel Discussion with Rebecca Miller, DC Preservation League
- Fri. January 1 – AOI Annual New Year's Day Brunch
- Thurs. Feb. 18 – *TBD* - stay tuned!

NOTE: All events, meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. Be sure to Check our [website](#) for speaker updates and/or last-minute changes.

Regular monthly AOI lunch meetings (Feb.-June, Sept.-Nov.) run from 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM on the third Thursday of the month, unless otherwise noted, at the Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
DC Primary - June 16
Maryland Primary - June 23
Virginia Primary - August 4



Footnote ...

In 1958, congressional legislation was passed to give AOI the right to purchase an old fire house in the 3200 block of M St., NW to become its headquarters. The transaction was never completed and 'The AOI's New Clubhouse in Georgetown' never came to fruition.